

**Call for workshop papers on  
Evidentiality, Modality and Corpus Linguistics**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EVIDENTIALITY AND MODALITY IN  
EUROPEAN LANGUAGES 2014 (EMEL'14)**

Facultad de Filología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid,

6-8 October 2014

**Workshop convenors:**

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**MODAL CATEGORIES.  
TOWARDS THE TYPOLOGICALLY VALID ANNOTATION OF  
DEONTIC, EPISTEMIC, EVIDENTIAL STRUCTURES IN NATURAL LANGUAGE.**

Submissions are invited for 20 minutes talks + 10 min. discussion.

Abstracts of 300 words (excluding references) are invited.

Please make sure the abstract contains a clear summary of the research question, the data and method and (prospective) results.

The language of the workshop will be English.

Abstract submission deadline: 7 April 2014

Notification of acceptance by the workshop convenors: 25 April 2014

Notification of acceptance by the conference organisers: 26 April 2014

Papers accepted for oral presentation due by 5 September 2014

Registration for the workshop is done as part of the normal conference registration process:

Early bird registration opens: 1 June 2014

Registration (full fee): 1 July 2014

Registration closes: 7 October 2014

Conference Fees (including coffee breaks, Wi-Fi access, and a conference pack):

Early Bird Registration (from 1 June to 30 June 2014):

- Regular participants: 120 Euros

- Students (with valid ID): 70 Euros

Late Registration:

- Regular participants: 150 Euros

- Students (with valid ID): 100 Euros

**Call Information**

This workshop seeks to bring together the research traditions of computational linguistics, corpus linguistics and typology in the study of modality (deontic, epistemic, evidential). More specifically, the categorisation / annotation of the different modal phenomena and the various factors with which they interact is a fundamental concern for all three approaches.

Collaboration of such concerns cross the theoretical and methodological divisions and our insights from different perspectives should be to the benefit of all.

Within the computational tradition, as pointed out by Nissim *et al.* (2013), recent years have witnessed the development of annotation schemes and annotated corpora for different aspects of modality in different languages (McShane *et al.* (2004); Wiebe *et al.* (2005); Szarvas *et al.* (2008); Sauri and Pustejovsky (2009); Hendrickx *et al.* (2012); Baker *et al.* (2012)). While there have been efforts towards finding a common avenue for modality annotation, such as the CoNLL-2010 Shared Task, ACL thematic workshops and a special issue of Computational Linguistics (Morante and Sporleder (2012)), the computational linguistics community is still far from having developed working, shared standards for converting modality-related issues into annotation categories.

A similar state of affairs holds for the immense quantity of research in the corpus-driven tradition in modality research where the where functionally determined annotation schemas have long been the focus of debate. Most of the research in this tradition has focused on the operationalisation of the manually annotated categories, but recent years have seen the growth methods that employ inter-coder agreement measures and predictive statistical modeling. Key references include, but are not restricted to: Coates (1983); Biber & Finegan (1988, 1989); Aijmer (1997, 2013), Hunston & Thompson (1998); Krug (2000); Nuyts (2001); Mushin (2001); Tucker (2001); Scheibman (2002); Kärkkäinen (2003), Rizomilioti (2003); Facchinetti, Krug & Palmer (2003); Paradis (2003); Marín-Arrese (2004); Martin & White (2005); Simon-Vandenberg & Aijmer (2007); Hunston (2007); Englebretson (2007); Cornillie (2007); Narrog (2008, 2012); Divjak (2010); Diewald & Smirnova (2010a); Boye (2012); Beijering (2012); Deshors (2012); and Glynn & Sjölin (2014).

In typology, identifying and characterizing the range of modal types and their marking across the languages of the world is clearly an ongoing and immensely difficult task, which is leading towards a complete classification of modal functions and a thorough understanding of the relations holding between modal categories as well as towards an understanding of the grammatical vs. lexical nature of modal markers across languages. One such line of research where the use of corpora is gaining methodological importance is comparative linguistics. Examples of typology research in the field include: van der Auwera & Plungian (1998); Johanson & Utas (2000); Plungian (2001, 2011); Dendale & Tasmowski (2001); Squartini (2001, 2004); Aikhenvald (2004); Wiemer (2005); Wiemer & Plungian (2008); Holvoet (2007); Xrakovskij (2007); Guentcheva & Landaburu (2007), Hansen & De Haan (2009); Boye & Harder (2009); Mortelmans *et al.* (2009); Boye (2010); Diewald & Smirnova (2010b, 2011); Mauri & Sanso' (2012); and Abraham & Leiss (2013).

We invite topologists, computational linguists and corpus linguists working on in the field to join our discussion on the contribution that corpus analyses can bring to the study of modality.

Ideas for research questions include but are not limited to the following:

1. What do corpora teach us about modality? How can corpus analyses help us to refine the repertoire of modal functions? How can the analysis of (parallel) corpora help to determine cross-linguistic (typologically valid) consistency in modal categories?
2. How do we operationalise (for annotation) non-observable (functional - conceptual) modal categories? Do current annotation schemata allow for a thorough identification of the modality and evidentiality markers existing in discourse?
3. What methods exist (usage-feature analysis, sentiment analysis, latent semantic analysis *etc.*) for the description of modal structures?
4. What statistical instruments of analysis do we need for accounting for the distribution of modal markers in corpora?

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